

SN:09/878,145

01 P 10395 US

IN THE CLAIMS

Please Cancel Claims 3 and 10-23.

Please Amend Claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An variable length instruction pipeline comprising:
  - a first pipeline stage;
  - a first expansion stage coupled to the first pipeline stage; and
  - a second pipeline stage coupled to the first pipeline stage and the first expansion stage, wherein the second pipeline stage is configured to selectively receive instructions from the first pipeline stage or the first expansion ~~stage.~~ stage; and
  - a second expansion stage coupled to the first pipeline stage and the first expansion stage and wherein the first expansion stage is configured to selectively receive instructions from the first pipeline stage or the second expansion stage.
2. (originally filed) The variable length instruction pipeline of Claim 1, further comprising a multiplexer coupled between the first expansion stage and the second pipeline stage and between the first pipeline stage and the second pipeline stage.
3. (cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The variable length instruction pipeline of ~~Claim 3,~~ Claim 1, further comprising a multiplexer

SN:09/878,145

01 P 10395 US

coupled between the second expansion stage and the first expansion stage and between the first pipeline stage and the first expansion stage.

5. (originally filed) The variable length instruction pipeline of Claim 1, further comprising a third pipeline stage coupled to the second pipeline stage.

6. (originally filed) The variable length instruction pipeline of Claim 1, wherein the first pipeline stage is part of an instruction fetch and decode unit.

7. (originally filed) The variable length instruction pipeline of Claim 6, wherein the instruction fetch and issue unit further comprises an instruction fetch stage coupled to the first pipeline stage.

8. (originally filed) The variable length instruction pipeline of Claim 1, wherein the second pipeline stage is a decode stage.

9. (originally filed) The variable length instruction pipeline of Claim 1 configured to process integer instructions.

- 10. (cancelled)
- 11. (cancelled)
- 12. (cancelled)
- 13. (cancelled)
- 14. (cancelled)
- 15. (cancelled)
- 16. (cancelled)
- 16. (cancelled)

SN:09/878,145

01 P 10395 US

- 17. (cancelled)
- 18. (cancelled)
- 19. (cancelled)
- 20. (cancelled)
- 21. (cancelled)
- 22. (cancelled)
- 23. (cancelled) ,